

PEI 4-H Rabbit Showmanship Guidelines



Dress Code: White lab coat or white shirt. Tie is optional. Hard soled shoes or boots are encouraged for members' safety. Sneakers may be worn, but not open toed shoes or sandals.

Showing Your Rabbit To the Judge (70 points)

Showperson's Actions:	Judge May Take Marks For:
<p>Carrying Your Rabbit To carry your rabbit the usual method is to grasp the fold of skin over the shoulders with your right hand while putting your left hand under the rump to support the weight and lift (or scoop) the rabbit into the left arm, tucking the head under the left elbow (or vice versa if the handler is left handed). If the rabbit prefers the head may be left out. The most important thing is to always have control of your rabbit.</p> <p>Posing Your Rabbit Always pose your rabbit facing your left, unless a different pose is specified by the judge. If asked to pose to best conformation advantage, the pose chosen depends on the breed as well as good points or faults your rabbit may have.</p> <p>When asked to show a different view, the easiest method is to use your hands on each side of the rabbit and move using smooth turns.</p> <p>Showing The Ears Open the ears so that the judge can see deep into the ear. Be sure to show both ears. Using smooth turns, move the rabbit in the other direction to show the other ear.</p>	<p>Loss of control of your rabbit; No support of the body; Unruly animal.</p> <p>Failure to pose the rabbit to its advantage; failure to straighten the tail when posing for a rear view; failure to smooth out the rabbit after moving; general difficulty in posing the rabbit or failing to pose in the view requested.</p> <p>Failure to show both ears; failure to turn to the other side.</p>

Showperson's Actions:	Judge May Take Marks For:
<p>Showing The Eye/Checking for Blindness Leave rabbit on the table and ensure to show both eyes, use quarter turns to show the opposite side. Be sure the ears are not in the way (especially with lops) while showing the eyes.</p> <p>Showing The Nose Turn the rabbit over and tilt head toward the judge to show nose clearly. If checking for snuffles, also check the inside of the front feet for signs of caked mucus.</p> <p>Showing The Teeth Turn the rabbit over and while tilting head toward judge, using thumb and index finger, gently part the lips to show the teeth. Your hand should be behind rather than in front of the mouth.</p> <p>Showing The Straightness of The Front Legs You do this by turning the rabbit over and with your hand behind the front legs push both elbows forward causing the rabbit to straighten out the legs.</p> <p>Showing The Straightness of The Hind Legs Pick the rabbit up and with its rump resting on the mat gently run your hand down the stomach until legs are straight. You can also do this by turning the rabbit over and placing your hand in front of the legs and pushing toward the back which will straighten the legs.</p> <p>Showing The Toenails Flip the rabbit over and show the toenails by pushing the thumb into the center of the paw. Push back fur with index finger if necessary to see the toenails. Don't forget to show the dewclaw on the front feet. Be sure to show all four feet unless instructed otherwise</p>	<p>Failure to show both eyes.</p> <p>Failure to have control.</p> <p>Difficulty in keeping control of the rabbit; failure to part lips to expose teeth</p> <p>Failure to straighten the legs; loss of control of the rabbit.</p> <p>Failure to straighten the legs; loss of control of the rabbit.</p> <p>Failure to show the dewclaw. Failure to show the nails on all four feet. Inability to keep control of the animal or show the toenails. Rabbits with overly long nails.</p>

Showperson's Actions:	Judge May Take Marks For:
<p>Checking The Hocks Show bottom of back feet to the judge, rubbing the fur to check for thickness of fur on the hock of for signs of soreness or bare patches</p> <p>Sexing The Rabbit Show the sex to the judge. Clamp tail between index and second finger; place thumb below vent area; and push toward front of rabbit. Show the testicles if a male. Return to posted position.</p> <p>Showing The Tail Sit the rabbit on the table and turn it so that its hind end is facing the judge. Straighten the tail by gently pulling upward.</p> <p>Checking Fur Quality, Cleanliness, & Condition Stroke the fur toward the rabbit's head showing fur going back to normal position to show quality and cleanliness. Stroke rabbit from head to rear and show your clean hand to the judge to show the fur condition.</p>	<p>Failure to show both hocks</p> <p>Failure to check sex. Incorrect identification of the sex. Failure to show the testicles on a male. Control problems.</p> <p>Leaving the rabbit sitting on tail.</p> <p>Unclean or stained animal. Animals in poor condition, animals with diseases. Not knowing the difference between quality, condition, and density.</p>

Appearance, Actions & Knowledge of General Rabbit Information (30 points)



Showperson's Actions:	Judge May Take Marks For:
<p>Appearance (10 points) Be neat and appropriately dressed for the occasion. Be sure to check the required dress code for poultry and rabbits as listed in the front of this manual.</p>	<p>Unclean apparel, no footwear, chewing gum, long hair falling on rabbit, long neck tie that interferes, unsafe or unsuitable clothing, wearing a hat (with the exception of a sun-safe hat in an outdoor ring).</p>

Showperson's Actions:	Judge May Take Marks For:
<p>Action (10 points) It is very important to carry out actions in a confident manner, always being considerate of your animal, fellow showpersons, and the judge. The judge should have your attention at all times so that he/she doesn't have to come to you to get your attention to move your rabbit or take some other action. Eye contact is very important, but also be careful to watch out for potential hazards and other competitors. If asked to move to another position on the table, pick up your animal and move behind other showpersons. Make sure to move in the appropriate direction to allow someone else to move into a space as they were instructed.</p> <p>Knowledge (10 points) Be prepared to answer questions about your rabbit with reference to parts, faults, disqualifications, eliminations, breed and variety characteristics, especially of the breed you show; and general rabbit raising information, such as diseases and cures, feeding, breeding, etc.</p>	<p>Unnecessary pauses or slowness, repetition of movements, routine not in order, rough handling of animals, awkward movements, failure to follow instruction, lack of eye contact.</p> <p>Inability to answer questions correctly</p>

